

BUENOS AIRES

14 JUN 82 14: 09

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TELEGRAM

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☐ CHARGE TO

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<p>E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION: INFO:</p>	<p>FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES</p> <p>GDS 6/10/88 (KEANE, JF) OR-P SHUM, FA, AR, UK PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS REQUEST INVESTIGATION PROJECT 20068074Z SECSTATE WASHDC AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM USCINCSO QUARRY HTS USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA</p> <p>BUENOS AIRES</p> <p>CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD</p> <p>1. (U) Alfredo Astiz is the Argentine Navy Captain captured by UK forces on South Georgias and now detained in Great Britain at the request of the French and Swedish governments. Those governments believe he was involved in the disappearance of a Swedish and two French citizens.</p> <p>2. (U) On June 2, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo filed a writ in federal court here calling for the investigation into the role of Astiz in the 1977 detention and subsequent disappearance of 12 persons, including the two French nuns. The writ came to light here on June 9. In the writ, the Mothers claim that Astiz under an assumed name infiltrated</p>	<p>CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]</p> <p>U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS Margaret P. Grafeld, Director (X) Release () Excise () Deny Exemption(s): Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full () Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____</p> <p>3540</p>
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<p>DRAFTED BY: POL:JFK/Keane:bw</p>	<p>DRAFTING DATE 6/10/82</p>	<p>TEL. EXT. 220</p>	<p>CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: DCM: [Signature]</p>
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CLEARANCES:
POLCOUNS:JFKing [Signature]

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their ~~organization~~ organization alleging that he wanted to support them because his brother had disappeared. Later, 12 members of the organization were detained and disappeared, according to the Mothers' writ. They say that Astiz was involved in their detention and request an investigation of the matter by the Argentine authorities. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XX~~
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3. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ COMMENT: Human Rights groups are concerned that the South Atlantic conflict has distracted Argentine attention at home and abroad from human rights issues. A Belgian embassy official who met with Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel one month ago told emboff that he ^{(Perez} ~~/X~~Esquivel) said that the conflict overshadowed every other issue in Argentina and has set back ~~human rights groups~~ efforts to maintain public interest in human rights, particularly the matter of disappeared persons. As correspondent Charles Vanheche conjectures in a recent LE MONDE article (FBIS 09 1459 2June 82): will "the death of young people (in the South Atlantic) wipe out that of the others?" Some observers have commented to emboffs that the national emergency has "white

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washed" the Armed Forces for many misdeeds and errors of the past; critics are silent out of fear of being accused of lack of patriotism.

4. ~~Several~~ Several individuals and groups, for example, have gone so far as to proclaim their support for Capt. Astiz ^{and that} ~~requested~~ the GOA ~~that it~~ insist he be returned to Argentina. They have defended his role in the "dirty war" against terrorism and denounced his interrogation by foreign governments as a "Nuremberg trial." ^{on the other hand,} The mothers ~~however~~ have proven that they will not be cowed nor desist in their objective -- an accounting for the disappeared -- regardless of the obstacles.

SHLAUDEMAN




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